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ABSTRACT

In summer 1980, students applying for June or August graduation from Mercer County Community College (MCCC) were surveyed with respect to their immediate post-graduation plans. A total of 611 students received the mailed questionnaire, and 83% responded. Of the 507 responding graduates, 81% indicated plans for employment in fall 1980, and 59% revealed plans to continue their education; 43% of the respondents planned to pursue some combination of employment and further education. Of those continuing their education, 87% intended to do so in a field related to their MCCC major; 69% planned to attend an in-state college; and 27% intended to transfer into an Arts and Sciences field, 24% into a Business and Commerce field, and 19% into a Mechanical and Engineering Technology. Of the respondents, 81% planned to be employed in the fall. Most of these graduates (81%) indicated that their jobs were related to their MCCC major. At the time of the survey, 38% of the respondents were still seeking employment. Of the working respondent group, 31% started working for their present employer before entering MCCC. The most popular types of employers were businesses and health-related facilities. Most of the respondents (81%) were satisfied with their MCCC program. The study report points out differences in the responses of full- and part-time students, degree and certificate students, and 1979 and 1980 graduates. The questionnaire is appended. (AYC)

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TECHNICAL REPORT
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

81-04

1980 GRADUATES

A SURVEY OF IMMEDIATE PLANS

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MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
COUNSELING AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT UNIT

AUGUST, 1980

JC 810 511

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Thomas Collins, Director
Office of Institutional Research

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page
Executive Summary	1
Scope of Survey	2
Continuing Education	2
Employment	6
Appendix: Survey Responses	15

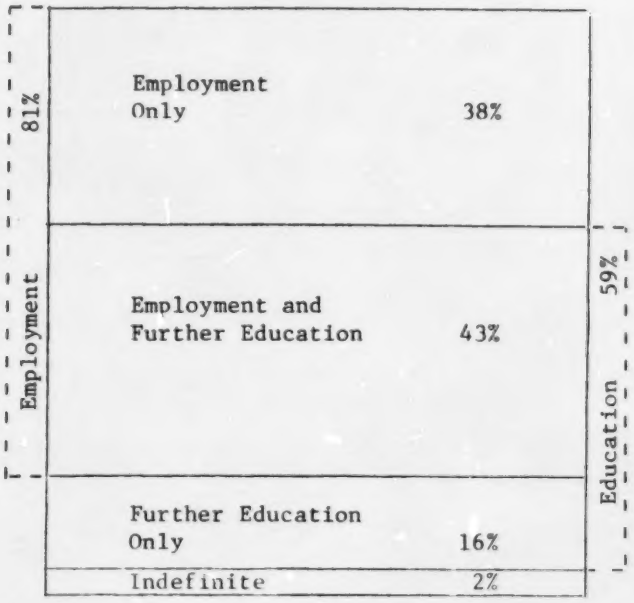
LIST OF TABLES

Figure		Page
A	Planned Activities for Fall	1
Table		
1	Plans for Continuing Education	4
2	Planned Employment Status	7
3	Students Obtaining Jobs	9
4	Type of Employer	11
5	Job Titles and Average Weekly Salaries by Program	12

Executive Summary

Figure A displays the planned activities of the sample of June and August, 1980 graduates who responded to the Survey of Immediate Plans. Eighty-one percent indicated plans for employment this fall and 59% indicated plans to continue their education. Note that 43% of the survey respondents were pursuing some combination of employment and further education; this is a large increase over last year's 26%.

FIGURE A
PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR FALL



N = 507

Other noteworthy findings are:

87% of those continuing their education will do so in a field related to their program of study at Mercer;

69% of those continuing their education will attend an in-state college;

81% of those who plan to hold a job will do so in a field related to their program of study at Mercer;

61% of those who plan to hold a job will do so in Mercer County; and

81% of all the respondents indicated they were satisfied with the program they completed at MCCC.[a]

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[a]Information on satisfaction by program may be obtained from the Office of Institutional Research.

Scope of the Study

In order to provide information on the activities of graduates, the Counseling and Human Development Unit of Student Development Services and the Office of Institutional Research jointly undertake the yearly Survey of Immediate Plans of Graduating Students. Information from this follow-up study is used in various ways: in compliance with truth in advertising requirements for educational recruiting, by faculty in an advisement capacity, in accreditation reviews, in individual studies, and by staff in response to external requests for information.

A total of 611 students who applied for graduation in June and August of 1980 made up the population for this year's study. The questionnaire (see Appendix) was mailed out with information on graduation procedures and was collected at cap and gown pick-up. Follow-up efforts included a second questionnaire mail-out. Forms were completed by 507 graduates, a response rate of 83%.

Continuing Education

Of the 507 graduates who responded, 299 (59%) planned to continue their education (151 full-time, 101 part-time, 47 reporting full- or part-time status uncertain). Last year, 57% of the surveyed graduates reported plans to continue their education. There is a statistically significant relationship between the sex of the respondent and continuing education; 69% of the men planned to continue while only 51% of the women planned to continue their education.

There is, also, a significant relationship between the type of degree awarded and the continuation of one's education. Seventy-nine percent of the graduates with an Associate of Science degree intended to continue their education, and 74% of the graduates with an Associate of Arts degree planned to continue, while 51% of the Associate of Applied Science graduates and 25% of the Certificate receiving graduates planned to continue.

Of the 299 graduates who reported plans to transfer, 262 (87%) indicated that their major was related to their program of study at MCCC, the same percentage reported by 1979 graduates. (See Table 1 for a breakdown of this information about graduates transferring by program.)

A list of college choices for Fall, 1980 enrollment included: Trenton State College (27%), Mercer County Community College (14%), Rutgers University (9%), Rider College (7%), Glassboro State College (2%), other in-state colleges (10%), and out-of-state colleges (31%). The major fields of study into which graduates indicated their intent to transfer includes Arts and Sciences (27%), Business and Commerce (24%), Mechanical and Engineering Technologies (19%), Public Service Technologies (13%), Data Processing (6%), and Health Services (6%).

In the section of the survey reserved for comments, 18 respondents indicated plans to continue their education at a later date.

Table 1
Plans for Continuing Education

Program Name	Total Survey Respondents	Number Continuing Full-Time	Number Continuing Part-Time	Total[a] Respondents Continuing	Major[b] Related
Accounting	14	2	3	7	6
Advertising Design	3	1	1	2	2
Aerospace Op. Mgt.	1	0	0	0	0
Architecture	12	6	1	9	7
Architectural Tech.	11	4	1	7	5
Aviation Education	1	0	0	0	0
Business Administration	22	12	5	18	16
Communications Media	1	1	0	1	1
Community Service Asst.	5	1	0	3	2
Computer Operations	6	0	2	3	2
Data Processing	14	3	5	10	9
Dental Assisting	8	0	2	2	2
Dental Assist. Cert.	9	1	0	1	0
Drafting Tech	6	0	3	3	2
Education Asst.	1	0	1	1	1
Elec Power Tech	1	1	0	1	1
Electrical Tech	1	0	1	1	1
Electronics Tech	5	0	0	0	0
Engrg--Cons/Civil	5	2	2	4	4
Eng Tech--Electl	10	5	4	10	9
Eng Tech--El Mec	1	0	1	1	1
Eng Tech--Mechnl	5	3	2	5	5
Engineering Science	7	7	0	7	7
Fine Arts	5	2	3	5	3
Fire Science Tech	3	1	2	3	2
Flight Attendant	5	0	1	2	1
Flight Tech	11	5	3	9	8
Funeral Service Educ.	18	1	4	5	4
General Business	21	4	4	11	10
Honors Lib Arts & Sci.	6	2	1	4	4
Human & Soc. Sci.	45	21	10	33	27
Laboratory Tech.	2	0	0	1	1
Land Use Management	2	0	2	2	1
Law Enforc. Officer	23	9	4	16	16
Legal Asst.	9	1	2	4	3
Libry/Media Asst.	3	0	1	2	1
Marketing	1	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	3	2	1	3	2
Medical Lab Tech.	14	5	2	9	9
Nursing	56	1	8	14	13
Ornl. Hort. Tech.	16	6	1	9	8

Table 1 (continued)

Program Name	Total Survey Respondents	Number Continuing Full-Time	Number Continuing Part-Time	Total[a] Respondents Continuing	Major[b] Related
Ornl Hort Tech. Cert.	1	0	0	0	0
Plant Science	2	1	1	2	2
Pre-Funeral Servcie Ed.	13	12	1	13	12
Radiologic Tech.	12	0	2	4	2
Sci--Biology	5	3	2	5	5
Sci--Chemistry	2	1	1	2	1
Sci-Computer	7	2	2	7	5
Secretarial Science	18	5	4	9	8
Telecommunication	34	10	2	17	13
Visual Arts	15	6	2	9	7
Program Unknown	6	2	1	3	2
TOTALS	507	151	101	299	262

[a]Includes respondents who indicated status uncertain.

[b]This column lists the number of respondents who reported that their transfer major was related to their MCCC program.

Employment

Of the 507 graduates responding to this survey, a total of 411 (81%) planned to be employed this Fall (294 full-time, 117 part-time). This is a significant increase from the results of last year when 54% reported plans for employment. For this year's graduates, out of 411 students planning employment, 333 (81%) indicated that their jobs were related to their program of study at MCCC. In the 1979 survey, 89% reported that their jobs were related. In other words, although a much higher percentage of graduates planned employment, a slightly smaller percentage indicated employment in their own field (see Table 2 for a breakdown of this information by program).

There is no statistical relationship between the respondents' sex and their plans for employment (78% of the men and 84% of the women planned on holding a job this fall). There is some variation in intention to work by type of degree. Eighty-nine percent of the Certificate graduates intended to hold a job this Fall, while 86% of Associate of Applied Science graduates, 74% of Associate of Science graduates and 70% of Associate of Arts graduates planned on holding a job.

One hundred fifty-five graduates (38%) indicated that they were still seeking employment at the time of the survey; 79 of these were not planning to continue their education.

Table 3 shows when the graduates began working for their employers, by program. Of the entire working graduate population, 81 (31%) started working for their present employer before entering MCCC, 97 (37%) before graduating from MCCC, and 82 (32%) after graduation. In the comment section, nine respondents said that even though they were employed, they were seeking a better job and/or a new one in their field.

Table 2

Planned Employment Status

Program Name	Total Survey Respondents	Number Employed Full-time	Number Employed Part-Time	Job[a] Related
Accounting	14	6	3	9
Advertising Design	3	1	2	2
Aerospace Op. Mgt.	1	1	0	1
Architecture	12	8	2	6
Architectural Tech.	11	5	3	5
Aviation Educ	1	1	0	0
Business Admin.	22	8	9	10
Communications Media	1	0	1	0
Community Service Asst.	5	3	1	2
Computer Operations	6	2	1	2
Data Processing	14	9	3	11
Dental Assisting	8	7	1	8
Dental Assist. Cert.	9	8	0	8
Drafting Tech.	6	6	0	6
Education Asst.	1	1	0	1
Elec Power Tech.	1	0	0	0
Electrical Tech.	1	1	0	1
Electronics Tech.	5	4	0	4
Engrg--Cons/Civil	5	2	1	3
Eng Tech--Electl	10	5	1	6
Eng Tech--El. Mec.	1	1	0	1
Eng Tech--Mechnl	5	2	2	2
Engineering Science	7	0	1	0
Fine Arts	5	1	2	1
Fire Science Tech	3	2	1	3
Flight Attendant	5	4	1	4
Flight Tech.	11	6	2	6
Funeral Service Educ.	18	16	1	17
General Business	21	14	4	14
Honors Lib Arts & Sci.	6	4	2	4
Human & Soc. Sci.	45	11	21	15
Laboratory Tech.	2	2	0	2
Land Use Management	2	2	0	1
Law Enforc. Officer	23	14	9	12
Legal Asst.	9	8	0	7
Libry/Media Asst.	3	3	0	3
Marketing	1	1	0	1
Mathematics	3	0	1	0

Table 2 (continued)

Program Name	Total Survey Respondents	Number Employed Full-Time	Number Employed Part-Time	Job[a] Related
Medical Lab Tech.	14	7	5	12
Nursing	56	52	4	52
Ornl. Hort. Tech.	16	7	5	9
Ornl. Hort. Tech. Cert.	1	1	0	1
Plant Science	2	1	0	1
Pre-Funeral Service Ed.	13	1	10	9
Radiologic Tech.	12	10	2	12
Sci--Biology	5	2	0	2
Sci--Chemistry	2	1	0	1
Sci--Computer	7	5	0	4
Secretarial Science	18	12	5	15
Telecommunication	34	20	7	21
Visual Arts	15	4	4	4
Program Unknown	6	2	0	2
Total	507	294	117	333

[a]This column lists the number of respondents whose job is related to their MCCC program.

Table 3
Students Obtaining Jobs: Before Entering, And
Before and After Graduating

Program Name	Before Entering Mercer	Before Graduation	After Graduation	Seeking
Accounting	1	2	0	6
Advertising Design	1	0	0	2
Aerospace Operations Mgt.	0	0	1	0
Architecture	2	2	2	4
Architectural Tech	2	1	3	3
Aviation Education	1	0	0	0
Business Administration	5	6	2	4
Communications Media	0	0	0	1
Community Services Assist	0	1	1	2
Computer Operations	0	0	0	5
Data Processing	1	7	1	3
Dental Assisting	0	2	3	3
Dental Assistant Cert.	0	6	1	1
Drafting Tech	1	2	3	0
Education Assistant	1	0	0	0
Electrical Tech	0	0	1	0
Electronics Tech	0	0	1	4
Eng - Constr/Civil	2	0	1	1
Eng - Elect	1	3	2	1
Eng - Electro Mech	0	0	0	1
Eng - Mechanical	2	1	0	1
Engineering Science	0	1	0	0
Fine Arts	3	0	0	0
Fire Science Tech	2	0	1	0
Flight Attendant	0	2	0	3
Flight Tech	1	2	0	5
Funeral Service Educ.	13	2	0	1
General Business	2	6	2	10
Honors Lib. Arts & Sci.	1	0	0	4
Humanities and Social Science	5	8	5	16
Laboratory Tech	0	1	0	1
Land Use Management	0	0	1	1
Law Enforcement Officer	12	3	2	5
Legal Assistant	2	5	0	1
Library/Media Assistant	2	0	0	0
Marketing	0	0	0	1
Mathmatics	0	0	0	1
Medical Lab Tech	1	4	1	6
Nursing	4	0	34	17
Ornamental Horticulture Tech	2	5	1	4
Ornamental Horticultural Tech Cert.	0	0	0	1

Table 3 (continued)

Program Name	Before Entering Mercer	Before Graduation	After Graduation	Seeking
Plant Science	0	0	0	1
Pre-Funeral Service Educ.	3	7	0	0
Radiologic Tech	1	1	2	7
Science - Biology	1	0	0	0
Science - Chemistry	0	0	0	1
Science - Computer	0	0	1	3
Secretarial Science	2	9	3	3
Telecommunications	2	4	5	17
Visual Arts	1	3	1	4
Unknown	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	81 (31%)	97 (37%)	82 (32%)	155

The most popular types of employers for Mercer graduates were businesses and health related facilities with 30% of the graduates planning to be employed in each (for a complete list see Table 4). Locations of jobs were largely reported to be in Mercer County (61%). Adjacent counties such as Burlington, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, and Somerset employed 7% of MCCC graduates; other parts of New Jersey employed 26%, and 6% of graduates reported working in out-of-state locations.

Salaries listed by program are shown on Table 5. There were so few graduates in any given program who chose to report their salaries that it is difficult to draw conclusions from these data.

Table 4

Type of Employer

Employers	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Business	73	30%
Factory or Industry	14	6%
Government	21	9%
Hospital/Doctor's Office/Clinic	72	30%
Public Service	26	11%
Retail Store	14	5%
School	11	4%
Service Industry	13	5%
	244	100%

Table 5

Job Titles and Average Weekly Salaries

by Program

Program	Job Title	Salary[a]
Accounting	1 FT Accountant	$263 (1)
	1 PT Other	--
Aerospace Operations Mgt.	1 FT Aviation Worker	$350 (1)
Architectural Tech.	2 FT Architectural Tech.	$195 (2)
	1 FT Skilled Tradesperson	$260 (1)
	1 PT Engineer/Drawing	--
Architecture	2 FT Architectural Tech.	$200 (1)
	1 FT Arch./Decorator	$220 (1)
Business Administration	1 FT Other	$125 (1)
	1 FT Accountant	$260 (1)
	1 FT Computer Programmer/ Operator	$160 (1)
Community Service Asst.	1 FT Social Worker	--
	1 FT Other	$130 (1)
Data Processing	5 FT Computer Programmer/ Operator	$297 (3)
	1 FT Supervisor	$300 (1)
Dental Assistant	2 FT Dental Asst.	$175 (2)
	1 PT Dental Asst.	$125 (1)
Dental Assistant Cert.	7 FT Dental Asst.	$159 (3)
Drafting Tech.	2 FT Engineer/Drawing	$228 (1)
	1 FT Architectural Tech.	$228 (1)
	1 FT Elec./Electronic Tech.	$345 (1)
Electrial Tech.	1 FT Mechanical/Electro-Mech. Tech.	$245 (1)
Electronis Tech.	1 FT Other	$300 (1)
Eng. - Construction/Civil	1 FT Supervisor	$225 (1)

Table 6 (continued)

Program	Job Title	Salary[a]
Eng. - Electrical	1 FT Engineer/Drawing	$250 (1)
	1 FT Elec./Electronic Tech.	$260 (1)
	1 FT Mech/Electro-Mech. Tech.	$265 (1)
Eng. - Mechanical	1 FT Mechanical/Electro-Mech. Tech.	--
Flight Tech.	1 FT Other	$400 (1)
	1 FT Aviation Worker	$160 (1)
Funeral Service Educ.	2 FT Funeral Director	$300 (1)
General Business	1 FT Supervisor	$250 (1)
	1 FT Secretary	$186 (1)
	1 FT Accountant	$210 (1)
	2 FT Computer Programmer/ Operator	$145 (2)
	1 FT Other	$260 (1)
	1 PT Bookkeeper	$200 (1)
	1 PT Other	$ 73 (1)
Humanities and Social Science	1 FT Business Mgt.	$300 (2)
	1 FT Other	--
	1 FT Secretary	--
	1 PT Library Aide	$ 80 (1)
	1 PT Teacher/Education Aide	$125 (1)
	1 PT Supervisor	$200 (1)
Laboratory Tec.	1 FT Med. Lab. Tech/ Radiologist	--
Land Use Management	1 FT Other	$180 (1)
Law Enforcement Office	1 FT Business (clerical/records)	--
	1 FT Secretary	$197 (1)
Legal Asst.	3 FT Legal Asst.	$200 (3)
	1 FT Law Enforcement Officer	$380 (1)
Medical Lab Tech.	2 FT Medical Lab Tech./ Radiologist	$216 (1)
	3 PT Medical Lab Tech/ Radiologist	$ 65 (1)
Nursing	32 FT Nurse	$259 (24)
	1 PT Nurse	$156 (1)

Table 6 (continued)

Program	Job Title	Salary[a]
Ornamental Horticulture Tech.	2 FT Horticulturalist	$125 (2)
	1 FT Other	$150 (1)
	1 PT Horticulturalist	$130 (1)
Pre-Funeral Service Educ.	1 FT Funeral Director	--
	1 FT Other	--
	4 PT Funeral Director	$130 (1)
Radiologic Tech.	2 FT Medical Lab. Tech/ Radiologic	--
	1 FT Supervisor	$400 (1)
Science-Computer	2 FT Computer Programmer/ Operator	$250 (2)
Secretarial Science	5 FT Secretary	$183 (3)
	1 FT Business (clerical/records)	--
	4 PT Secretary	$ 88 (4)
Telecommunications	1 FT Other	$300 (1)
	2 FT Salesperson/Clerk	$180 (1)
	1 FT Skilled Tradesperson	$219 (1)
	1 FT Electrical/Elec. Tech.	$150 (1)
	1 PT Salesperson/Clerk	$ 75 (1)
Visual Arts	1 FT Other	$226 (1)
	1 PT Artist - Commercial	$ 83 (1)

Note. These data represent all respondents who listed their job titles and salaries for a job they received since entering MCCC.

[a]The number in parenthesis is the number of respondents reporting their salary and is, therefore, the basis for the calculation of the weekly average.

Appendix

MCCC GRADUATES' PLANS FOR FALL, 1980

SURVEY RESPONSES

(507)
(Name)

S/S No. ___-__-____

Sex: (circle one) Male (210) Female (295) Blanks (2)

(Home Address)

(Home Phone Number)

1. When do you plan to graduate from MCCC? (circle one)

I plan to graduate this June	1	(436)
I plan to graduate this August	2	(53)
I plan to graduate January, 1981 or later	3	(9)
I do not plan to graduate (please explain)	4	(6)
Blanks		(3)

2. What degree or certificate will you be receiving? (circle one)

Associate in Arts (AA) Degree	1	(69)
Associate in Science (AS) Degree	2	(105)
Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree	3	(299)
Certificate	4	(28)
Blanks		(6)

3. What is your major at MCCC? (see Table 1)

4. How satisfied are you with your major program? (circle one number on this scale)

Blanks (4)	1 (29)	2 (9)	3 (54)	4 (243)	5 (167)
	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatified	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied

5. Do you plan to continue your education in the fall? (circle one)

Yes, full-time	1	(151)
Yes, part-time	2	(101)
Yes, status uncertain	3	(47)
No (please skip to question 8)	4	(202)
Blanks		(6)

6. If you do plan to continue your education this fall, please provide the following information. (Please list colleges in order of preference.)

Name of College	Status of Application: Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Major Program
(See Page 3)	(155)	(85)	(4)	(See Page 3)
	(27)	(26)	(2)	

7. Is your anticipated major related to the program you majored in at MCCC?

Yes, definitely .....1(190) Yes, sort of.....2 (72) No 3 (27)

8. Will you be holding or do you hope to hold a job this fall? (circle one)

Yes, full-time 1 (294)
Yes, part-time 2 (117)
No (please skip to question 12) 3 (76)
Blanks (20)

9. Which statement best describes your plans for employment? (circle one)

I started working before entering MCCC and will keep the same job.....1 (81)

I started working before graduating from MCCC and will keep the same job.....2 (97)

I obtained a job before graduating from MCCC, and will start working after graduation.....3 (82)

I am seeking a new job or first career.....4 (155)

10. If you plan to work this fall, please provide the following information. (Please list jobs in order of preference.)

Job Title	Name of Employer	City, State	Weekly Salary	Full Time	Part Time
(See Table 5)	(See Table 4)	Mercer Co. (150) New Jersey (80) Out-of-State (16)	(See Table 5)	(188) (14)	(55) (7)

11. Is the job you plan or hope to hold this fall related to the program you majored in at MCCC?

Yes, definitely.....1 (282) Yes, sort of.....2 (51) No 3 (74)

12. If you do not have definite plans for this fall--or if you plan to do something other than work or continue your education--please describe:

(71) _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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